

mile-stone, on the Frederick turnpike—this school has since been abandoned for the present, because proper school accommodation could not be had in the neighborhood.

Before establishing this school, the patrons had promised to assist in building a school house, but it was never accomplished; hence the abandonment of the school for the present.

Our Board had set apart \$3,000 as a fund of relief to the friends of education throughout the County, if they would furnish an equal amount for building school houses where most needed; but this offer on our part, has been accepted only in one School District, near Poplar Springs, in Mr. Burdett's District. To him, in a great degree, is due the merit of conceiving the design of building the first school house in this County under the new School System. This house cost \$1,112, of which amount \$500 have been paid by our Board; and we assume the payment of the half of the whole cost, leaving \$66 due by our Board. Too much credit cannot be given to the patrons of this School District for their laudable zeal in the good cause of education.

The amount expended for repairs has not been very large. Many of the school houses were scarcely worth repairs. In my School District I have the best houses in the County: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 I found in pretty good condition; but No. 4 and 7 were very ordinary. No. 4 is indeed miserably cold in winter, and illy fitted for comfort, or the promotion of the cause of education.

In my District I have had few repairs done, because I regarded it as money thrown away. I hope to see No. 4 moved, and a new house built, which I hope will be done as soon as means are provided to enable the Board to rebuild such as are needed.

In the second Commissioner's District, Nos. 1 and 2 are poor apologies for school houses; Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are only passable; more money has been expended on repairs than was justified by the condition of the school property; but we could do no better, we had no building fund sufficient for our need, and repairs had to be made or the schools abandoned.

In the third Commissioner's District, Nos. 1, 4, 8 and 9 will do very well; No. 8 is the new school house near Poplar Spring, and is a credit to the County; but Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 are very poor contrivances, not one of which should remain as it is if I could avoid it.

The financial condition of the schools as shown by the statistics, requires a remark in reference to the apparent small balance of cash in hand at the close of the financial year, July 31st, 1866. Of the \$7,000 levied in May 1865, for the use of the schools, only \$5,472 remained on the 31st of July of said year, to be paid to our Board of Education, and of this